

TOP SECRET

NRO review(s) completed.

4 DEC 1974

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of Ad Hoc Committee to Update
1965 NRO Agreement

Leslie C. Dirks, DDS&T/OD&E

DDI/CGAS

DDA/OS

SIGINT Committee/USIB

COMIREX

SUBJECT : DCI Talking Paper for PFIAB on Update of NRO Agreement

1. The Director, NRO's draft revision of the 1965 NRO Agreement, which we have reviewed, also was sent to the PFIAB, which has a study of the NRO underway.

2. On the chance that the D/NRO's paper might be discussed during the session which the DCI will have with PFIAB on 6 December, I prepared the attached talking paper for his use.

3. I am advised it is presently the DCI's intention to withhold comment on the D/NRO's paper until after the PFIAB study report is available (still expected to be January), and I have so advised [redacted], who has staff action.

(sig [redacted])

Chairman

Attachment: as stated

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UPDATE OF THE SECDEF/DCI 1965 NRO AGREEMENT

NOTE:

The D/NRO letter of 21 October to the Secretary of Defense and the DCI, subject: "Updated NRO Agreement," also was sent to the Chairman, PFIAB, so the subject might be raised when the DCI meets 6 December with the PFIAB.

The D/NRO letter enclosed a proposed new "Draft Agreement for the National Reconnaissance Program" prepared by the NRO Staff (copy at Tab A). A copy of the 1965 agreement is at Tab B.

The IC Staff organized an ad hoc committee with representatives of the DDS&T, DDI, DDA, Office of Security, and Chairmen of the COMIREX and SIGINT Committees.

Informal preliminary comments on the NRO draft were prepared, but the Committee considered that rather than seek agreement on these proposed changes, it would be better to await access to the PFIAB Study of the NRP, now expected to be completed in January.

Further action has been deferred pending availability of the PFIAB Study.

* * * * *

PROPOSED COMMENTS:

The D/NRO proposal to update the 1965 NRO agreement is timely, but there are some portions of the draft which should be clarified and made more specific.

25X1 As [REDACTED] pointed out in his letter of 21 October, "the draft retains the present flavor of the management of the NRO."

It may well be that what we ought to do is bring the 1965 agreement up to date, but retain the organization and rather crisp wording of the 1965 document.

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I do not see any particular urgency for action, however, which is why I prefer to wait until the PFIAB has completed its study of the National Reconnaissance Program, which I understand has been under way for several months and is expected to be completed in January.

Once we have been able to review the PFIAB recommendations, I will then be prepared to comment specifically on the NRO draft.

The NRP is working well, in my view, and I do not foresee any real problems in reaching a new agreement which the Secretary of Defense and I can sign.

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